



American
Red Cross

Youth Engagement

Service Project Ideas



Overview

As an American Red Cross Club, there are endless activities and projects you can do. When planning for the upcoming year, the first thing to keep in mind is: *What should be your Club's focus? How can you best represent and promote the Red Cross mission and fundamental principles through Club initiatives?*

We're here to help you identify Red Cross mission-related service projects and provide you with some original Red Cross ideas and tips for planning your own project.

Why Plan Service Projects?

Throughout the semester, you have to balance school, social life, family time and several extracurricular activities, one of them being your Red Cross volunteer activities. This is not an easy task. Running a Club is just one of the things you need to keep on your radar.

Your Red Cross Club will need to plan and coordinate a minimum of three Red Cross mission-related service projects per year. The service projects can focus on preparedness, blood services, Service to the Armed Forces, fundraising, and International Humanitarian Law.

Note: If your local Red Cross Region does not participate in blood services, you should speak with your Red Cross Region Contact to determine an alternate project.

Your Club should also plan and coordinate additional Red Cross mission-related service projects throughout the year. The service projects should revolve around these mission-related lines of service:

- Training Services
- Biomedical Services
- Disaster Cycle Services
- International Services
- Service to the Armed Forces

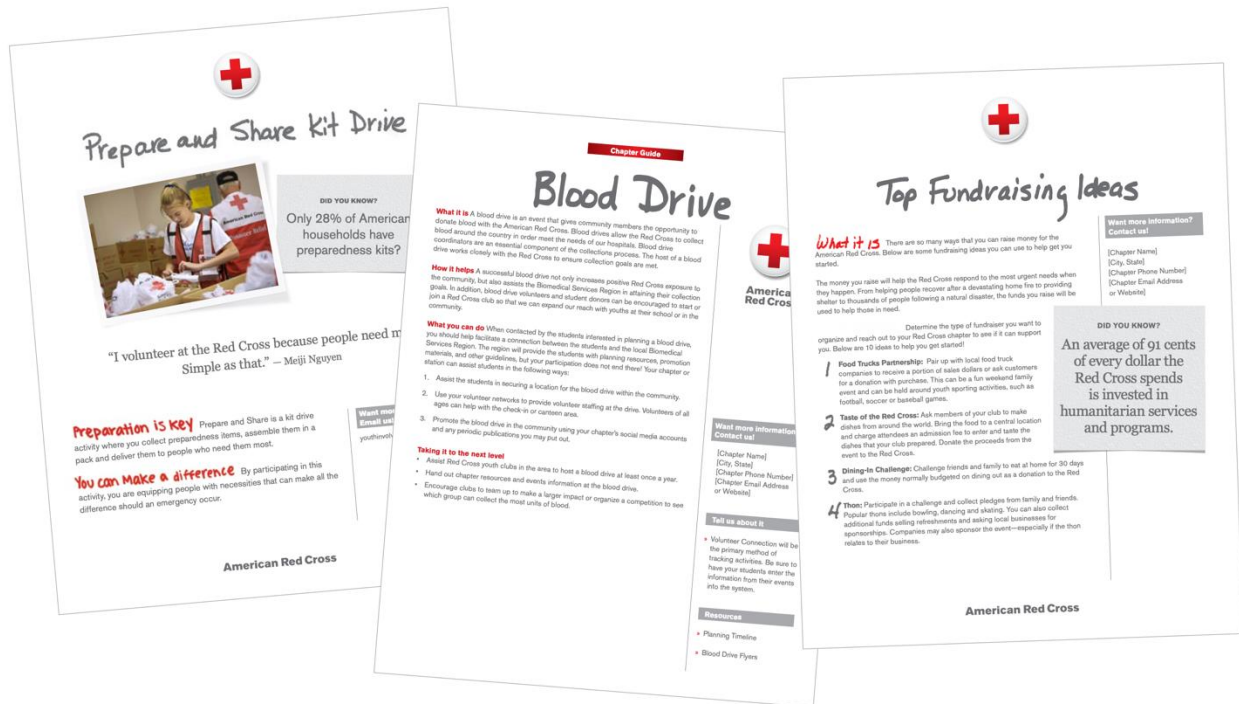
Any activities that are not mission-related must first be approved by the local Red Cross Region.

Activity Guides

The good news is that you don't have to start planning projects from scratch. The Red Cross has developed fun activity guides for your Club to use to easily plan and implement mission-related projects.

Activity Guides can be downloaded directly from redcrossyouth.org and your Red Cross Region can provide you with additional resources to make your activities a success!

Here are just some of the Activity Guides that are available:



Prepare and Share Kit Drive

A Kit Drive activity in which essential preparedness items are collected, assembled in a pack and delivered to those who need it most.

Hosting a Blood Drive

An event that gives community members the opportunity to donate blood with the Red Cross.

Top Fundraising Ideas

There are so many ways that you can raise money for the Red Cross. Here are some fundraising ideas you can use to help get you started!

There are many more guides available on redcrossyouth.org.

Volunteer Opportunities

We've also identified some volunteer opportunities that your Club can do within each line of service. These are just a few of the many ways that you can engage with the Red Cross mission.

Training Services

- Get trained to become a community preparedness instructor and deliver presentations to younger students and your local community.
- Host a preparedness fair at your school. Set up tables for your local Red Cross Region, fire departments, police departments, campus security, and campus health departments. You can also have stations where students can put together a first aid kit and create their own personal preparedness plan.

- Check with your local Region and see if they offer the Ready Rating Program. If not, lobby for your school to sign up for the Ready Rating Program to get them better prepared for an emergency or disaster.

Biomedical Services

- Host a blood drive at your school.
- Make thank you cards for blood donors to be given out at an upcoming blood drive.
- Volunteer at a blood drive—act as a greeter, escort or serve refreshments.

Disaster Services

- Help clean and maintain Emergency Response Vehicles (ERVs).
- Take the Disaster Services: An overview course.
- Work with your region and lobby your school to sign up as a Red Cross shelter site.

International Services

- Raise funds for the Measles & Rubella Initiative online or on-campus through the Vaccinate a Village project.
- Host a panel discussion with guest speakers to discuss International Humanitarian Law (IHL) or a specific IHL-related topic.
- Promote “Exploring Humanitarian Law” (EHL) to local schools and area community colleges.

Service to the Armed Forces

- Make holiday cards for service members and veterans for the Holiday Mail for Heroes campaign.
- Host a gift drive for a veteran’s hospital.
- Participate in the “Totes of Hope” program for homeless veterans. Pack backpacks of personal care items plus a note of thanks for the veteran.

Fundraising

- Fundraise for the Red Cross Holiday Campaign.
- Partner with a local restaurant for a “Red Cross Night.” A certain percentage of food sales for the night can go to your local regional program services.
- Host a bake sale or garage/yard sale and donate all proceeds to the Red Cross. And many more!

Reminder: *After you’ve successfully completed your project, make sure to submit all the information about your Club activities on your Red Cross Club GroupShare page on Volunteer Connection.*

Contact your local Red Cross Region for more information.

Impact Starts Here